



# Learn to Hunt Volunteer Guidelines

Thank you! This event is only possible because of your time and dedication.

You have the most important job today: ensuring a safe and fun experience for everyone. You will be given a mentee to guide on this hunt. You are in charge.

Have a short pre-hunt meeting with your mentee. Introduce one another and discuss their experience as a hunter/gun handler. Explain that it will be the hunter's job to flush a bird that is sitting tight. This may involve walking directly in front of a pointing dog and nearly stepping on the bird. **No one should ever go in front of the hunters to flush a bird.**

Explain the layout of the field/land and how you intend to hunt it. Talk about realistic goals for the hunt. Hitting a flying bird for experienced hunters is hard. A harvest is not necessary for a successful experience!



Restate the **Four Rules of Firearm Safety** and a few other specific safety concerns:

1. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
  2. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
  3. Be certain of your target and what is beyond it.
  4. Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.
- Safety must be on until you shoulder your gun.
  - While walking it is best to use a two-handed ready carry.
  - We are using dogs today- no shooting low birds or birds on the ground.
  - Understand that birds might fly right to left or left to right. If this is the case, be aware of your “zone of fire” (small window directly in front). **DO NOT** swing in front of your hunting partners.
  - If a bird flies up and behind you, **DO NOT SHOOT** or swing for it.

During the hunt:

- Be **vocal, patient, and kind**.
- **ALWAYS** stay within arm’s reach of your mentee: it is **YOUR** responsibility to ensure they are using safe zones of fire.
- Keep an eye on stamina. Water or a short break part-way through the hunt might be needed.
- Celebrate hits and misses! A shot off in the direction of the bird and seeing dog work = win

Thank you again! Expanding the upland community depends on people like you making a difference!